

REMARKS:

The Office Action mailed June 14, 2006 has been received and carefully considered. Reconsideration of the application as amended hereby is respectfully requested. Notice that Claim 13, 16 and 17 are allowable is noted with appreciation.

Claim 7 was rejected as obvious in view of Lamb. Claim 7 has been rewritten as new Claim 18 in a manner that is believed to clearly distinguish over Lamb. In particular, Claim 18 calls for the wastewater to first be directed to a first anaerobic region. This terminology is supported by the application (see page 5, lines 10 to 15, for example) and is believed to clearly differentiate over Lamb in that the wastewater in Lamb first enters an aerobic region, thereafter it enters a solids separation region, then an anoxic region and finally an anaerobic region.

Applicant's process of going first to the first anaerobic region and then flowing a partial side stream to the second anaerobic region sets up a sequence of events that is quite effective in removal of phosphorous and is not in any way taught or suggested by Lamb.

Claim 11 has been amended to also claim that the wastewater is first directed to an anaerobic region and also distinguishes over the cited art, as do the claims that now depend from Claims

11 and 18.

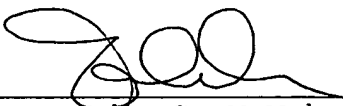
Therefore it is urged that Claims 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 are allowable over the art of record and noted to this effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone, if prosecution of this application can be expedited thereby.

Respectfully Submitted,

James L. Barnard


JCM:lm
PO Box 30069
Kansas City, Missouri
64112
Phone: (816) 531-3470



John C. McMahon
Reg. No. 29,415
Attorney

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August 31, 2006

James L. Barnard
(Applicant)

By 

August 31, 2006

(Date of Signature)